

terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 43 and 54 are independent.

Claims 43-49 and 54-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 5,280,576 (Cao). The other claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Cao.

Independent Claim 43 is directed to an outline forming apparatus comprising a storing means for storing font data which include coordinate information indicating positions of basic outline points for forming an outline of a pattern having a predetermined weight, and for storing movement information, provided for each of the basic outline points individually, for moving the basic outline points using weight information indicative of weight of a pattern, as a parameter. The apparatus also comprises an input means for inputting weight information indicating a desired weight of an outline of a pattern to be generated, and a means for generating an outline of the pattern having the weight indicated by the weight information input by the input means. Claim 43 also recites that the generating means generates the outline from outline points which are obtained by moving the basic outline points based on the weight information, the coordinate information and the movement information.

By virtue of using font data having the characteristics recited in Claim 43, since movement information is provided for each basic outline point, the direction

and the amount of movement can be determined for each outline point, and consequently, the quality of the pattern, at each level of weight (i.e., stroke thickness), is improved.

Cao relates to a method for adjusting the weight of a character in an outline font, in which each character is described by a collection of control points. Each line segment or curve segment is described by two end points, and at least one middle control point is also provided for each curve segment. In the Cao method, a new line is prepared for each segment of the character, parallel to and spaced from the corresponding line of the original character. Intercepts between the new lines formed in this way are determined, and are used as the end points for the adjusted-character segments. Then, for each curve segment, third and fourth lines and an additional (second) intersection are determined. The third line is defined by one end point of the original character curve segment and the corresponding adjusted-character curve segment, and the fourth line is defined by the other end point of the original character curve segment and the corresponding adjusted-character curve segment. The second intersect is that between the third and fourth lines. Similarly, additional lines are determined for each middle control point of each curve segment, and based on these additional lines, a middle control point for the adjusted-character segment is determined, at their intersection.

Thus, according to Cao, the direction and amount of movement for each outline point will be defined by lines 26 (see Fig. 3) obtained by moving original lines 12, based on a designated weight to be obtained in the adjusted character. In the Cao system, the font data merely include coordinate information of the basic outline points (the control points 14, shown most clearly in Fig. 1) for forming an outline of a pattern having a predetermined weight.

Applicant strongly urges that nothing found or pointed out in Cao would teach or suggest movement information provided for each basic outline point individually, and in addition does not teach or suggest any arrangement capable of providing the above-described advantages obtained by using an apparatus constructed in accordance with Claim 43. For at least that reason, Claim 43 is believed clearly patentable over Cao.

Independent Claim 54 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 43, and therefore is believed to be patentably distinct from the cited prior art for the same reasons as Claim 43.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

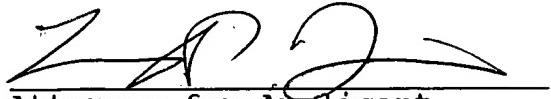
This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 758-2400 or by

facsimile at (212) 758-2982. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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